

Dhaka Day by Day

Big on Pearls

by S M S Joya

Amena, a *muktawali* (pearl trader), makes a living selling pearls and other gems and makes it good. Following her father's (a 'johuri' or lapidary by descent) footsteps, she entered this time of business ten years back to make a better living. Her husband's (also a pearl trader) income was only good enough to support the family but now they can use the extra earning to buy lands, gold and even to save for future.

Travelling all the way from Demra to all parts of the city, she finds the strenuous efforts worth it when at the end of the day she returns home with a whopping sell-out. A brisk demand for the same cultured pearls and other gems sold at jewellery shops at comparatively much higher prices makes it easy for her to sell soon.

Apart from cultured pearls in different shades comes natural pearls (rarely), rice-pearls, boshrai pearls and a wide range of fine gem-stones such as AD (in the Tk 20 - Tk 250 range), Amethyst (Tk 100 per piece), Garnet (Tk 30), Golden Topaz (Tk 100), Rubi (Tk 100) and what not? She also has a collection of her own imitation jewellery in beads, which also sell good.

There are nearly two hundred others like Amena - all living in a large area in Demra, they call their gram or village. Usually the male pearl-traders (*muktawalas*) work as suppliers to shops when their spouses or female counterparts peddle from door to door.

There are about twenty to thirty 'mohajons' or merchants/stockists. Who hire these traders on a monthly salary of Tk 1,500 (it may vary according to efficiency). These mohajons are again classified into two groups, *Boro* (big Mohajon) and *chhotto* (small mohajon). They only have *chhotto* mohajons in their village and *boro* mohajons are settled in Tanti Bazaar. It's a very fair game between the stockists and the traders. A stockist lends his goods to a trader at certain prices without haggling, provided within a time limit, the trader sells/supplies the goods at higher prices. All the profit goes to the trader. When a trader fails to sell an article during the given time limit, the stockist

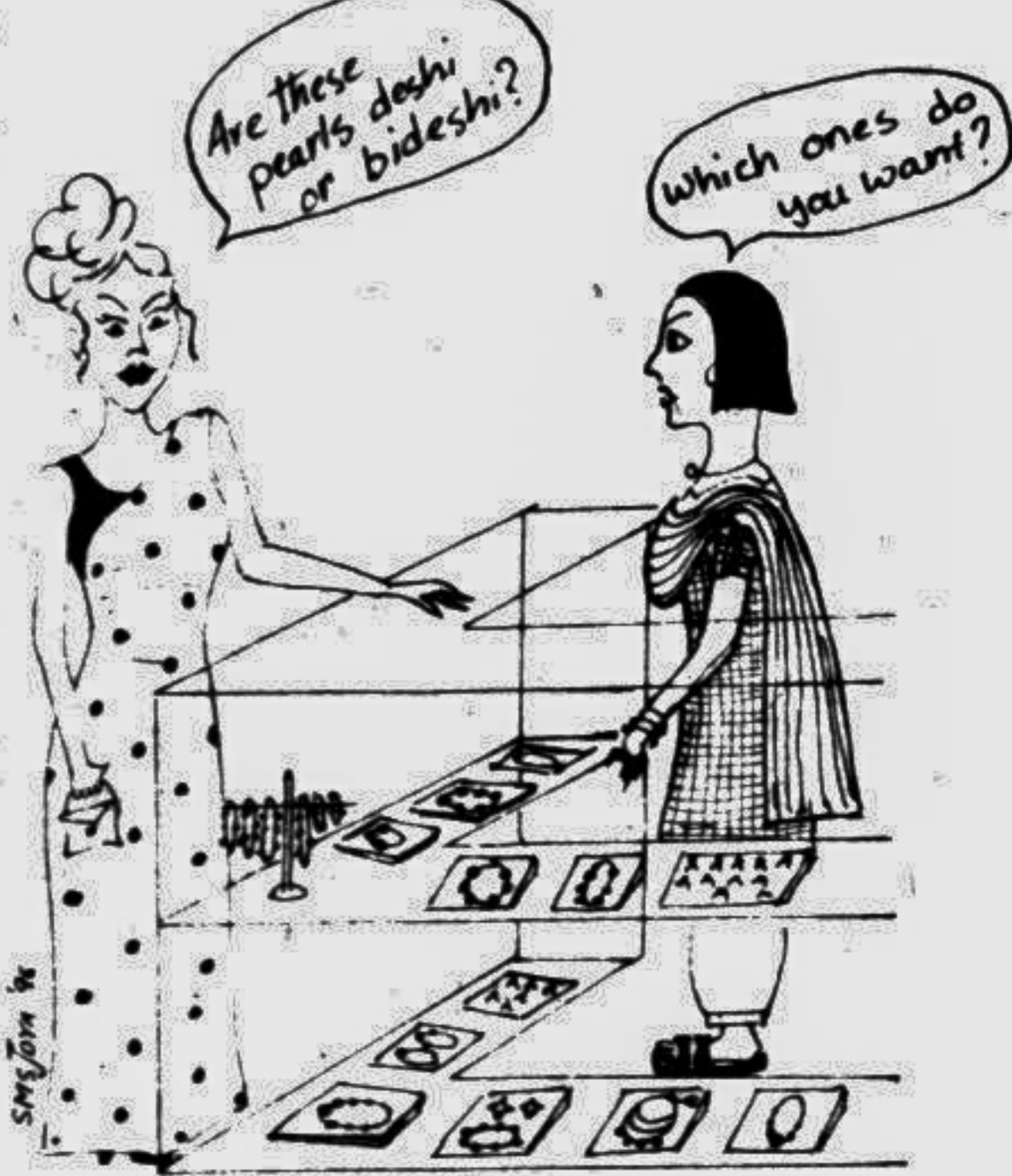
doesn't take it back but the trader has to repay him and later sell it at his own convenience either at a loss or gain. Quite a scheme!

Other than trading pearls, some people from her clan are also earning a lot selling 'jhinuk' or oyster powder. Others work as 'karigors' or craftsmen charging Tk 10 for making one single necklace. Some experts make up to fifty strings a day which means they earn Tk 500 a day. These people are obviously doing good. Amena has relatives who have grown from rags to riches, selling these gemstones. According to her, a cousin 'has become 'katipati' (millionaire) or filthy rich supplying pearls to Aarong. 'Once I had a customer working at the Pakistan Embassy and his family bought pearls worth of Tk 40,000 in two days just before he went back to Pakistan. I sold him jewellery of, at least, two lakh taka in four years' enthused Amena.

However, the business has gone down a bit now, 'you could sell pearls for Tk 800 per 'bhor' (180 grams) ten years back but now it has come down to Tk 150 - Tk 200 per 'bhor' lamented Amena. Nevertheless, it is still a huge industry, making quick profit.

To a connoisseur's curiosity, the origin of these gems adds interest to the story. It is known that Bangladesh has a very few pearl-fisheries in Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Mymensingh that fish-up pearl-oysters to produce natural pearls only. So, where do these cultured-pearls come from? As far as it is known, nowhere from Bangladesh. It is shocking to learn that the traffickers of gems at such a large scale are making big money so openly.

However, it is good to see a sizeable group of people being able to make a living out of such an easy way, but it is also very unsatisfactory to learn about the illicit trading that is going on in the country where people are sweating over taxes on staple food and other necessities. So next time you buy that pearly good, give it a second thought - is it worth it? Wouldn't you rather wear our own natural pearls even if it's just a single bread and be proud of it? Certainly, you should.



Delegation of the election observers team of parliamentarians from Japan led by Shin Sakurai called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo



Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman talking to the members of different international polls observers at a reception hosted by him at 30 Hare Road in the city yesterday. — PID photo



Despite a working day yesterday, city's Motijheel Commercial Area wore a deserted look as the city dwellers were glued in front of their TV and radio in anticipation of the polls results. — Star photo

BCL memo to CEC

By Staff Correspondent

A group of pro-Awami Chhara League activists from different residential halls of the Dhaka University submitted a memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), urging fair repolling at the 28 constituencies where polling was postponed.

The BCL activists in a truck went to the Election Commission at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city around 9 pm yesterday. But they were intercepted by police at the gate of the EC office.

The BCL workers handed over the memorandum to the police to deliver it to the CEC, according to an activist from the Mohsin Hall of DU.

Play due role in strengthening democracy: Kamal

A meeting of the standing committee of Gono Forum yesterday called upon all concerned to play their due role in consolidating parliamentary democracy in the country, reports UNB.

In a resolution, the meeting said the spontaneous participation of the people in Wednesday's parliamentary election reflected their hopes and aspiration for the democratic process to march ahead.

The meeting, presided over by party president Dr Kamal Hossain, congratulated the countrymen for massively participating in the polls, and the caretaker government and EC

CSM
IGS
SOUTH ASIA BRANCH

CSM INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

OPPORTUNITY TO EARN AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL MANAGEMENT DEGREE THROUGH REGULAR STUDY AT CSM-IGS (SOUTH ASIA BRANCH) PUNE, INDIA

B.B.A. M.B.A.

3 years Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with specialisations in Marketing, Finance, Personnel, Materials, Advertising & Public Relations, Export Import & Fashion Technology

2 years Master's Degree in Business Administration with specialisations in Marketing, Finance, Personnel, Production, Hospital Administration, Hotel Management & International Trade

ELIGIBILITY
BBA : HSC or Equivalent
MBA : Graduation (Hons/Pass) / Equivalent

For further details, please Contact —
Exclusive representative:
OVERSEAS STUDY COUNSELLING BUREAU
10/22, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Tel: 8161111
Bogra Branch: 'Talukder House' Shibbat, Bogra
Tel: 051-5816
Timings: 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. & 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. ENROLLMENT IS MADE ON PRIORITY BASIS

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology Dhaka

Wanted

Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness to fill up one temporary post of Lecturer in Sociology against the Permanent Post of Professor for Humanities Department of this University in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/-.

Prescribed Qualification

The candidate should possess a 1st Class Masters Degree with Honours in Bachelors Degree.

OR

2nd Class Masters Degree with 1st Class Honours in Bachelors Degree.

OR

2nd Class Masters Degree with 2nd class Honours in Bachelors Degree holding two years teaching experience in the subject concerned at degree level in a University or Govt College.

Candidates having foreign Degree/Degrees will have to submit equivalent certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology with their applications.

15 (Fifteen) complete sets of application with attested copies of all certificates, testimonials, transcripts and marksheets are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a Crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 25/- (Twenty-five) in favour of the Comptroller of this University.

Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application: 7th July 1996, 23rd Ashar, 1403.

D-589 Registrar

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board

Office of the Director Procurement
Telephone Exchange Building
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No DP/L-27/SG/95-96/Mtc/50 Dated, Dhaka the: 20-02-1403BS
03-06-1996AD

Local Re-Tender Notice

Gala sealed tenders in prescribed form are hereby invited from the manufacturers/bonafide suppliers for supplying the following items.

Sl No	Tender No	Name of the stores and quantity	Price of tender schedule (non-refundable)	Closing and opening date of tender
1.	DP/L-27/SG/95-96/Mtc	Different sizes of Motor tyre & tube. Qty 1038 Nos	Tk 1000/- (Taka one thousand) only	18-03-1403BS 02-07-1996AD
2.	DP/L-48/SG/95-96/Mtc	Different sizes of Bengali English typewriter machines, duplicating machine & calculator machine. Qty 91 Nos.	Tk 150/- (Taka one hundred fifty) only	19-03-1403BS 03-07-1996AD

The intending tenders shall have to apply to undersigned in their printed letter head pad for purchasing the tender schedule on cash payment of the tendered price from 8.30 AM to 1-00 PM on all working days. Information about earnest money and other terms and conditions are available in the tender schedule. No tender schedule of the concerned tenders will be sold on the opening day of those tender.

The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept any or to reject all the tenders in the interest of B T & T Board without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-13208-10/6
G-749 Dy Director (Local Procurement)
Phone No: 815041

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Sylhet & Chittagong Govt Veterinary College Establishment Project
Animal Resources Directorate, Agri Farm Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from furniture manufacturers & bonafide suppliers for purchase of the undermentioned furnitures for Sylhet Govt Veterinary College & Chittagong Govt Veterinary College under Sylhet & Chittagong Govt Veterinary College Establishment Project. Detailed description of furnitures, information, terms & conditions will be given in the tender schedule. Tender schedule can be purchased on cash payment of the price from the office of the undersigned, Principal (Acting), Chittagong Govt Veterinary College, Chittagong & Principal, Sylhet Govt Veterinary College, Tilagarh, Sylhet on 29-6-96 & 30-6-96 during office hours and the tender schedule will be received in the tender box kept at the same offices that sold the schedule, up to 12-00 Noon of 1-7-96 and the tenders will be opened on 3-7-96 at 1-30 PM before the tenderers (if any) present at the office of the undersigned.

No tender schedule will be sold or received by post.

Group	Description of furniture	Approximate quantity of furnitures to be supplied	Price of schedule	Earnest money
Group-A	1. Dining chairs for Sylhet Govt Veterinary College.	100 (one hundred) nos	Tk 750/-	2.5% of quoted rate
	2. For classroom of Sylhet Govt Veterinary College. a) Table ... b) Chair ...	100 (one hundred) nos		
Group-B	1. Dining chairs for Chittagong Govt Veterinary College.	50 (fifty) nos	Tk 750/-	2.5% of quoted rate
	2. Dining Table for Chittagong Govt Veterinary College.	5 (five) nos		
	3. For classroom of Chittagong Govt Veterinary College. a) Table ... b) Chair ...	50 (fifty) nos		

Project Director
Sylhet & Chittagong Govt Veterinary College Establishment Project
Animal Resources Directorate
Agri Farm Road, Farmgate
Dhaka-1215, Telephone: 317458

DFP-13014-8/6
G-746

PON '96 report launched

Need for ensuring child nutrition stressed

RAJSHAHI, June 13: Progress of Nations '96 (PON) report was launched here Tuesday stressing the need for ensuring child nutrition as well as health and education to them using available resources, reports UNB.

Organised by Rajshahi Divisional UNICEF the PON '96 launching was held at the conference room of Rajshahi Parjatan Motel here.

UNICEF chief Rajshahi Division A T Siddique presented the PON '96 the function which was also addressed by Kazi Farid Ahamed, the District Commissioner.

Speakers at the function also called for making the society free from child diseases and child labours.

Creation of congenial environment is needed for alleviating poverty from the society, they said urging UNICEF representative in taking measures to ensure pure drinking water free from arsenic poison.

The launching programme expressed concern over the spread of scabies in the locality due to impure drinking water, says a PID handout.

Addressing the function as chief guest Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi A F M Yahya Chowdhury said that UNICEF is mainly an organisation for alleviation sufferings of the children as most people live within limited means.

So we should help the UNICEF programmes unitedly to overcome all difficulties within the shortest possible time, he added.

A large number of elites, divisional and district level officials, journalists, representatives of voluntary organisation and teachers participated in the function.

Weather

Moderate rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature 36 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and Satkhira and the lowest 22.4 degrees at Kutubdia.

The sun sets today at 6.47 pm and rises Saturday at 5.11 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.2	25.7	74	73
Chittagong	35.0	25.5	67	62
Rajshahi	36.0	25.4	77	61
Khulna	35.4	26.0		
Barisal	35.5	25.6	74	60
Sylhet	34.5	25.0	66	66
Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.0	66	66

TUCK! TUCK!

SOLID

Thanks To New Pepsodent GERMICHECK

"... Pepsodent GERMICHECK is my toothpaste. My dentist says that correct and regular brushing with Pepsodent GERMICHECK will reduce the build up of germs, fight tooth decay and make my teeth healthy and strong."

All round protection of your family's teeth.

ADCOMM/PEPSO.GER/96